



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,369	07/09/2003	Nobuo Osaka	Yoshida.7138	1239
55740 7590 02/21/2007 GAUTHIER & CONNORS, LLP 225 FRANKLIN STREET SUITE 2300 BOSTON, MA 02110			EXAMINER AHLUWALIA, NAVNEET K	
			ART UNIT 2166	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/21/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/616,369

Applicant(s)

OSAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Navneet K. Ahluwalia

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-19 and 21-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 14-19 and 21-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/23/2007 has been entered.

2. The application has been examined. Claims 14 – 19 and 21 – 23 are pending in this office action.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 14 – 19 and 21 – 23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2166

5. Claims 14 – 19 and 21 – 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Mohi et al. ('Mohi' herein after) (US 2003/0195008 A1) further in view of Raymond Anthony Joao ('Joao' herein after) (US 2002/0121969).

With respect to claim 14,

Mohi discloses an operation instructing terminal, carried by an operations manager, the terminal comprising: means for acquiring operation instructions from an instruction center side (Figures 18, 19, Mohi);

- a storage section for storing acquired operation instruction content (Figure 18 elements 210 and 212, Mohi);
- means for presenting the acquired operation instruction content to the operations manager (Figure 18 and paragraph 0123, Mohi);
- means for collecting information relating to operating conditions of a terminal (Figure 18 interaction between element 200 and element 212, Mohi); and
- means for carrying out processing to make it impossible to refer to information about a sought person included in the operation instruction content stored in the storage section if the collected information related to operating conditions satisfies previously set operation stop conditions and (page 1 – 2 paragraphs 0020 and 0023, Mohi)
- means for carrying out processing to make it impossible to refer to information concerning a sought person included in the operation instruction content

stored in the storage section, in accordance with an instruction acquired from the instruction center (page 1 – 2 paragraphs 0020 and 0023, Mohi).

Mohi however does not explicitly disclose the security and providing information according to conditions explicitly as claimed.

João teaches the security and providing information according to conditions (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because they are in the same field of invention, tracking and locating devices or a person. Furthermore, the added security levels taught by Joao would protect the information regarding the person/device being accessed by an unauthorized user (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

6. Claim 21 is rejected under the same rationale given for claim 14. The citations of the elements claimed and taught are listed below.

With respect to claim 21,

Mohi as modified discloses the operation instructing terminal of claim 14, further comprising:

- a timer for clocking a time from a specified registration operation, the timer serving as the means for collecting information relating to operating conditions (paragraphs 0134 – 0135, Mohi); and

Art Unit: 2166

- a control section for determining whether or not the time clocked by the timer has exceeded a specified time and, if the specified time has elapsed (figures 18, 19 and paragraphs 0123 – 0124, Mohi), determining that the operation stop conditions are satisfied, and carrying out erasure processing for operation instruction information stored in the storage section to make it impossible to refer to the information (page 3 paragraphs 0058 and 0059, Mohi).

With respect to claim 15,

Mohi discloses a search supporting system containing a center side device and a plurality of search supporting devices possessed by each search staff (Figure 18, Mohi), wherein: the center side device comprises:

- means for transmitting a search instruction to a specific search supporting terminal possessed by a search manager selected from among search staff managing a search of a person being sought (page 3 paragraph 0058, Mohi); and
- means for providing information about the sought person relating to a received search request only in response to a request from the specific search supporting device, wherein the search supporting devices comprise: means for receiving a search instruction from the center side device (Figures 18, 19 and paragraphs 0123 – 0124, Mohi); and

- means for setting the search supporting devices to be capable of requesting the center side device for information concerning the sought person only when the search instruction is received (page 3 paragraph 0059 lines 1 – 17, Mohi).

Mohi however does not explicitly disclose the security and providing information according to conditions explicitly as claimed.

Joao teaches the security and providing information according to conditions (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because they are in the same field of invention, tracking and locating devices or a person.

Furthermore, the added security levels taught by Joao would protect the information regarding the person/device being accessed by an unauthorized user (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

7. Claims 17, 18, 22 and 23 are rejected under the same rationale given for claim 15. The citations of the elements claimed and taught are listed below.

With respect to claim 17,

Mohi as modified discloses the search supporting system of claim 15, wherein each search supporting device comprises (Figure 18, Mohi), means for acquiring sought person information from the center side device (page 4 paragraph 0068 – 0069, Mohi)

means for storing the acquired sought person information; means for providing the acquired sought person information to a search manager (Figures 18, 19 and paragraphs 0123 – 0124, Mohi); and means for deleting the stored sought person information upon receipt of a search completion instruction input from a search manager (page 3 paragraphs 0058 and 0059, Mohi).

With respect to claim 18,

Mohi as modified discloses the search supporting system of claim 15, wherein the sought person information contains image information of a portrait information of the sought person (page 3 paragraph 0057 lines 5 – 9 and page 4 paragraph 0070, Mohi).

With respect to claim 22,

Mohi as modified discloses the search supporting system of claim 15, wherein:

- the center side device further comprises: means for managing missing flags representing loss of each search supporting device (Figures 1, 18 and 19, paragraphs 0142, 0144, Mohi); and signal transmission means for transmitting a signal instructing erasure of information to a search supporting device having a missing flag set to indicate that the search supporting device is missing (page 3 paragraphs 0058 and 0059, Mohi), and
- the search supporting devices further comprise: means for storing a search instruction and sought person information received from the center side device (Figures 1, 18 and 19, paragraphs 0123 – 0124, Mohi); means for

Art Unit: 2166

presenting content of the stored search instruction and sought person information to the search manager (page 4 paragraph 0068 – 0069, Mohi); and means for performing erasure processing of the search instruction and sought person information to make it impossible to refer to the information if a signal instructing erasure of the stored information is received from the center side device (page 3 paragraphs 0058 and 0059, Mohi).

With respect to claim 23,

Mohi as modified discloses the search supporting system of claim 22 wherein, when accessed by at least one of the search supporting devices, the center side device refers to a missing flag corresponding to the accessing search supporting device (paragraphs 0134 – 0135, Mohi) and when the flag is set to indicate that the search supporting device is missing, transmits a signal instructing erasure of the information to that search supporting device (page 3 paragraphs 0058 and 0059, Mohi).

With respect to claim 16,

Mohi discloses a search supporting system, comprising a transmitter carried by a sought person (page 4 paragraph 0068 – 0069, Mohi), a center side device and a search supporting device possessed by every search manager (Figure 18, Mohi), wherein:

Art Unit: 2166

- the transmitter comprises: means for acquiring current position information (Figures 18, 19, Mohi); and means for transmitting the current position information to the center side device (Figure 18 and paragraph 0123, Mohi);
- the search supporting device comprises: means for acquiring current position information and; means for transmitting the current position information and a request for sought person information to the center side device (Figures 18, 19 and paragraphs 0123 – 0124, Mohi), and
- the center side device comprises: means for holding a plurality of items of information relating to a sought person and respective security levels in a correlated manner (page 3 paragraph 0058, Mohi);
- means for receiving current position information of a search supporting device and a request for sought person information from the search supporting device (page 6 paragraph 0098 lines 1 – 17, Mohi);
- means for calculating information on a relative positional relationship between a transmitter carried by a sought person and a search supporting device based on current position information of the search supporting device (page 6 paragraph 0087, Mohi);
- means for determining a disclosable security level based on the relative positional relationship information (page 8 paragraph 0116 lines 1 – 17, Mohi); and
- means for providing information about sought persons up to a security level set as disclosable to a requesting search supporting device based on the

Art Unit: 2166

determination such that, as the search manager approaches closer to the sought person, sought person information having higher security levels are provided (page 8 paragraph 0116 lines 17 – 26, Mohi).

Mohi however does not explicitly disclose the security and providing information according to conditions explicitly as claimed.

Joao teaches the security and providing information according to conditions (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because they are in the same field of invention, tracking and locating devices or a person.

Furthermore, the added security levels taught by Joao would protect the information regarding the person/device being accessed by an unauthorized user (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

With respect to claim 19,

Mohi discloses a search supporting device, possessed by a search manager, comprising:

- means for detecting its own current position (page 3 paragraph 0058, Mohi);
- means for acquiring current position of a transmitter carried by a sought person (page 4 paragraph 0068 – 0069, Mohi);

Art Unit: 2166

- means for calculating a relative positional relationship of itself and the transmitter based on the detected own current position information and the current position of the transmitter (page 6 paragraph 0087, Mohi);
- means for receiving and storing a plurality of items of information relating to sought persons from a center side together with respective security level attributes (page 3 paragraph 0058, Mohi); and
- means for determining disclosable security levels according to the calculated relative positional relationship (page 8 paragraph 0116 lines 1 – 17, Mohi) and providing to a search manager information, among stored information relating to sought persons such that, as the search manager approaches closer to the sought person, sought person information having higher security levels are provided (page 8 paragraph 0116 lines 17 – 26, Mohi).

Mohi however does not explicitly disclose the security and providing information according to conditions explicitly as claimed.

Joao teaches the security and providing information according to conditions (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because they are in the same field of invention, tracking and locating devices or a person.

Furthermore, the added security levels taught by Joao would protect the information regarding the person/device being accessed by an unauthorized user (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Navneet K. Ahluwalia whose telephone number is 571-272-5636.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam T. Hosain can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Navneet
Navneet K. Ahluwalia
Examiner
Art Unit 2166

TM 2/19/07

Dated: 02/14/2007


HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER